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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/549,667	04/14/2000	Douglas K. Warner	5483.00	8856

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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/549,667

Applicant(s)
Warner et al.

Examiner
Te Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 14, 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 - 33 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The cross reference related to the application cited in the specification must be updated (i.e. update the docket No. 5482 with PTO serial numbers).

Appropriate correction is required.

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicants' cooperation are requested in correcting any errors of which applicants may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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3. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "The apparatus" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 16 recites "The apparatus" in line 1. It is noted that Claim 16 is dependent on claim 3. Claim 3 recites "The method of providing" and claim 3 is a method claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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5. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by de Hita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,774).

As to claim 11, De Hita et al. disclosed the claimed apparatus for providing a context sensitive mapping of a plurality of help informational items in an information retrieval system, comprising:

a) a database [199, Fig. 1; col. 6, lines 16-19] having one or more record entries, the one or more record entries defining relationships between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items [530, Fig. 5; col. 12, lines 20-26], and the one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value of based on historical frequency of selection of respective the corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items during a help information retrieval session initiated from the originating locations [col. 4, lines 40-47]; and

b) a navigation interface [col. 6, lines 37-45; 180, Fig. 1] adapted to, upon detection of a user initiation of a help information retrieval session from an originating location, determine whether one or more matching record entries exist in the database for the being viewed informational item [420, Fig.4], and to provide, if the one or more matching record entries exist, an access to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to the originating location according to the one or more record entries [col. 6, lines 30-34].

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As to claim 12, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is adapted to increase the associated relationship strength value for the one or more matching record entries corresponding to the at least one of the one or more associated help informational items by a predetermined amount [602, 640, Fig. 6; col. 27, lines 47-51].

As to claim 13, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is configured to, if the one or more record entries are not found in the database, provide a help topic content listing at least one of the plurality of help informational items, and, upon user selection of a help informational item from the listed at least one of the plurality of help informational items, to create a new record entry having a relationship strength value for the originating location and the user selected help informational item pair [col. 3, lines 40-61].

As to claim 14, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is configured to assign an initial value of the relationship strength value [col. 28, lines 32-34; lines 43-45].

As to claim 15, De Hita et al. further disclosed that a database update mechanism for updating the database to reflect the associated relationship strength value being increased [1530-1545, Fig. 15].

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As to claim 16, De Hita et al. further disclosed that database update mechanism configured to store the new record entry in the database [420, 440, Fig. 3; col. 11, lines 20-21].

As to claim 17, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the system having means for collecting user selection data comprising a log of user actions during one or more help information retrieval sessions; and herein the updating the database is performed periodically off-line using the collected user selection data [310, Fig. 3].

As to claim 18, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the system having means for collecting user selection data comprising a log of user actions during one or more help information retrieval sessions; and wherein the updating the database is performed periodically off-line using the collected user selection data [col. 11, lines 37-44].

As to claim 19, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is configured to cause a list of the one or more associated help informational items to be displayed to the user [180, Fig. 1].

As to claim 20, De Hita et al. further disclosed that navigation interface is configured to sort the list of the one or more associated help informational items in a descending order of respective associated relationship strength [col. 27, lines 47-55] .

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As to claim 21, De Hita et al. further disclosed that an information retrieval system comprising:

- a) a plurality of help informational items [114, Fig. 1]; and
- b) a database having one or more record entries, the one or more record entries defining relationships between locations from which help requests originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, and the one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value based on historical frequency of selection of respective the corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items during a help information retrieval session initiated from the originating locations [199, Fig. 1; 530, Fig. 5; col. 4, lines 40-47; col. 6, lines 16-19; col. 12, lines 20-26].

As to claim 22, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the information retrieval system including a navigation interface adapted to, upon detection of a user initiation of a help information retrieval session from an originating location, determine whether one or more matching record entries exist in the database for the originating location, and to provide, if the one or more matching record entries exist, an access to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to the originating location according to the one or more record entries [col. 6, lines 30-34; lines 37-45; 180, Fig. 1; 420, Fig.4].

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As to claim 23, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the plurality of informational items comprise a plurality of world wide web pages [180, Fig. 1; col. 7, lines 19-22].

As to claims 1-10 and 24-33 these claims recited the same features as in claims 11-20 and 21-23 in form of processing method or computer readable storage medium having computer program, hence were rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Becker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,579) which disclosed the method and means to build a data structure visualization tool; Boulton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,618) which disclosed a method and apparatus for implementing user feedback.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached at (703) 308-1436. The fax phone numbers for this

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group are: (703) 746-7238 (After Final Communication); (703) 746-7239 (Official Communications); and (703) 746-7240 (For Status Inquiries, Draft Communication).

9. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Susan Chen

June 1, 2002


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